SARAH MOULTON HAWKINS

Sarah Moulton was born 5 March 1837 in Irchester, Northampton, England, daughter of Thomas Moulton and Esther Marsh. Nine days before Sarah's second birthday her mother died; but in little more than a year her father remarried. Sarah Denton Moulton, her father's second wife, not only raised Sarah but ten additional children of her own. Shortly after their marriage, Sarah's father and new mother met and listened to missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and were baptized members of that church. Sarah was baptized by a Brother Andrew Nobles at the age of 13, 15 February 1851.

Five years later, in the spring of 1856, Sarah and her family desired to join the main body of the Church in Utah. After a six-week voyage to America and a rail ride to Iowa, Sarah and her father's family joined the Willie Handcart Company in pulling handcarts across the plains to Utah. Her folks started with a large stock of goods but had to leave some along the way to lighten loads and allow for the breaking of handcarts made of green timber.

Before reaching the Salt Lake Valley the company was halted by the early snows of the coming winter. Missionaries returning from England overtook and passed them and reported the plight of the immigrants to President Brigham Young who immediately sent out a rescue party. With the help of their rescuers the company finally arrived in Salt Lake City the ninth of November 1856.

One of the young men in the rescue party, John Bennett Hawkins, was particularly attracted to Sarah and, within a month, on December 5, 1856, they were married. From the time of their marriage until about 1871 they made their home in Salt Lake City on Main Street in the 14th Ward. A blacksmith by trade, John went into business just below Second South on Main Street. Six children were born to them while they lived in their first home: William, Sarah Ann, Mary Elizabeth, John Moulton and the twins, Esther Emily and Eliza Jane.

Their second home was in the same neighborhood, only a few blocks to the south. The rest of their eleven children were born there: Julia May, Emma Emelia, Thomas Ernest and Della Maud.

Little is recorded of the personal instances of her life. Those who knew her, however, describe her as manifesting "that true charity which flows from a sense of duty and hope in God," and a woman "purely consistant in every phase of life."

In the winter of 1884-5 Sarah became ill and was sick most of the winter. She recovered sufficiently to travel to Logan to do some temple work for her dead and it seemed to satisfy her that she had been there. She died suddenly, May 2nd, 1885, aged 48 years and two months.

written by Paul H. Martin, grandson. printed 1973